

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel paragraphs 0002-00031 of the specification and insert the following paragraphs 0002-00023:

[0002] American education is confronted with a number of challenges evidenced by an increase in classroom costs, low test scores, classroom diversity, learning differences, and disabilities. Educators have attempted to meet these challenges by extending the hours in a school day, reducing the number of available extra-curricular activities, instituting school voucher programs, providing English as a Second Language (“ESL”) programs, and providing on-line courses. Even with all of these efforts it appears that none of them is directed to the particular needs of each individual student. That is, none of the improvements takes into account the unique learning experiences of each student. Furthermore, none of the improvements builds on the learning experiences of former students for the benefit of subsequent students.

[0003] With the ready accessibility of personal computers and, in particular, portable PCs such as laptops and tablet PCs, it has become possible now more than ever for students to reap the benefits of computer technology of education purposes. This is particularly so in light of the fact that the price for personal computers has dramatically declined over the past several years. Adding to this potential is the steady improvements in portable computing technology such as the recent introduction of MS tablet PCs and improvements in high-speed, low-cost access to information over the Internet.

[0004] The improvements in computing technology, reduced cost for such technology, and high-speed, low-cost availability of information should enable students to receive an education that is more particularly directed toward their individual needs, whether their needs are created by unique education interests, socio-economic circumstances, learning differences, language differences, etc.

[0005] A learning system is needed that accounts for the personal learning differences,

habits, methods, and experiences of each student, taking full advantage of their past learning experiences, and utilizing new technologies and computerized access to educational and reference information.

SUMMARY OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0006] One embodiment of the invention provides an individualized learning method, wherein information can be selected, analyzed, modified, edited, excerpted from, or correlated, etc. Information may be selected from materials including, but not limited to: books; textbooks; articles; historical, literary and scientific sources (both primary and secondary); magazines; newspapers; homework; notes; previous tests; projects; assignments; presentations; formulae; compounds; third party commentary; pictures; diagrams; sketches; or reference materials; or any combination thereof. The documents can include, but are not limited to, textual, audio, video, digital, printed, or hand written documents; or any combination thereof.

[0007] Modifications may include, but are not limited to: notes; highlighted text; a highlighted picture; a highlighted diagram; a specific category of notes; a specific category of highlights; a link to one or more definitions; formulae in notes; proofs explored in notes; personal drawn pictures created in notes; personal drawn diagrams created in notes; audio notes; or video notes; or any combination thereof.

[0008] One embodiment of the invention comprises: storing a document in a storage medium of a device; displaying the document; generating a modification to the displayed document created by a user of the device, wherein the modification is displayed to the user as an integral part of the document; storing the modification separate from the document in the storage medium so that the modification can be separately categorized, searched, or retrieved; and correlating the document and the modification.

[0009] In one embodiment of the invention, the device may be, but is not limited to, a personal computer, a laptop computer, a tablet PC, or a PDA, any of which may have scanning functionality.

[00010] One embodiment of the invention comprises categorizing the document in an automatic mode where the document is automatically categorized, or a manual mode where data is received from a user that identifies a category with which the document is correlated.

[00011] Another embodiment of the invention comprises categorizing a modification in an automatic mode in where the modification is automatically categorized, or a manual mode in which data is received from a user identifying a category with which the modification is correlated.

[00012] In another embodiment of the invention, the storage medium includes a plurality of documents and a plurality of modifications stored thereon.

[00013] Another embodiment of the invention comprises generating a personalized summary of an educational experience based on the categorization of modifications made to the documents. For example, the modification can be a note, where the note is a margin note, pointer note, or an interlinear note, or any combination thereof.

[00014] Another embodiment of the invention comprises linking a modification to a resource.

[00015] Another embodiment of the invention comprises accessing a resource selected from language dictionaries, thesauri, writing style references, encyclopedias, famous quotation references, tables of absolute data, or dynamic formulas, or other resources including external resources, or any combination thereof.

[00016] Another embodiment of the invention comprises receiving a series of modifications, wherein the modifications are made by a learner or by a third party.

[00017] In another embodiment of the invention, a personalized summary of educational

experiences is generated, including, but not limited to, experiences gained from a course of study, a course learning in a class, past tests, teacher/tutor critiques, previous research papers, essays, class notes, class assignments, research notes, class materials, instructor distributions, or other learning means of a formal or informal nature, digital or otherwise, or any combination thereof.

[00018] Another embodiment of the invention comprises receiving a personalized summary of an experience developed by another user on another device. In addition, users can develop personalized summaries of experiences that may be shared with others.

[00019] Another embodiment of the invention includes converting the document or the summary that is in one form (*e.g.*, video) into a transformed document that is in another form (*e.g.*, textual).

[00020] Another embodiment of the invention includes translating the document or the summary from a first language into a second language. Languages include, but are not limited to, spoken or classical, logic, Boolean, algebraic, calculus, or symbolic languages, or any combination thereof.

[00021] Another embodiment of the invention comprises generating an outline of the document based on the modifications made to the document, wherein the outline may be generated based on at least one hierarchy of categorized modification.

[00022] In another embodiment of the invention, the categorized modifications form a hierarchy. The categorized modifications can be organized, for example, in a nested, summarized, or filtered form.

[00023] Another embodiment of the invention comprises generating a review of the document based on modifications made to the document. The review can include, but is not limited to, test questions.